

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:  
said ceramic particles comprises  
bismuth layer compound containing at least Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Sr and Ln) as a main component, and  
an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and  
an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.8 to 4.7  $\mu m$ .
2. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1, wherein said  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$ , and “ $\alpha$ ” satisfies  $\alpha = 1 - \beta$ , “ $\beta$ ” satisfies  $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.50$  and “ $\gamma$ ” satisfies  $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.50$ .
3. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.
4. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.
5. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 4, wherein a maximum value  $Q_{max}$  of “Q” ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of

thickness vertical vibration at 24 MHz is 8 or larger.

6. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ca, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Ca and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 1.0 to 4.5  $\mu m$ .

7. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6, wherein said

$M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Ca_{1-\beta}Ln_{\beta})Bi_{\gamma}Ti_4O_{15}$ , and “ $\beta$ ” satisfies  $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$  and “ $\gamma$ ” satisfies  $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.20$ .

8. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6 or 7,

wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

9. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance

formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6.

10. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 9, wherein a maximum

value  $Q_{max}$  of “Q” ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 60 MHz is 6 or larger.

11.(Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ba, Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal ( $M^{II}$  is an element composed of Ba, Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn and an oxide of Ge as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.4 to 3.2  $\mu m$ .

12. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said  $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$  type crystal is expressed by a composition formula  $(Ba_{1-\alpha-\beta}Sr_{\alpha}Ln_{\beta})Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ , and

“ $\alpha$ ” satisfies  $0.1 \leq \alpha \leq 0.6$ , “ $\beta$ ” satisfies  $0.05 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$  and “ $\gamma$ ” satisfies  $3.90 \leq \gamma \leq 4.30$  in said composition formula.

13. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11 or 12, wherein

a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO, and

a content of said oxide of Ge is 0.05 to 0.5 wt% in terms of GeO<sub>2</sub>.

14. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~claim 11.

15. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 14, wherein a maximum value  $Q_{max}$  of “Q” ( $Q = |X|/R$ , wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a

resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to the fundamental wave of thickness-shear vibration at 8 MHz is 23 or larger.